

REMARKS

The applicant thanks the Examiner for the thorough examination of the subject application and as set forth in the Office Action dated September 29, 2008. In that Office Action, the Examiner rejected all the pending claims either under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) or §102(e) as being anticipated by a cited reference; and under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over the cited references. In view of the amendments to the claims, Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Applicant has amended independent Claims 19 and 27 to include a common current oscillation characteristic value determined by the sensor unit for plurality of turbine components that operate comparably. Although the Examiner cited various references as disclosing this element, the Examiner failed to specifically cite in each reference where this element is disclosed. The undersigned has reviewed all the cited patents and published patent applications and submits that not one of the references cited by the Examiner discloses this limitation. In addition, these references do not suggest providing such a limitation in a method and device for detecting contaminants on the turbine components.

As noted on page 4, paragraph 23 of the subject application, a turbine machine may contain components that operate in a comparable manner. By way of example, a number of rows of turbine blades are arranged behind one another and hot gas flows over each of them in turn. Thus, the turbine blades of one of these rows are operating in a comparable manner and that the hot gas is applied in parallel to these turbine blades. As a result of the symmetrical construction of the turbine, especially with regard to arrangement of turbine blades, an equal load is thus imposed on the turbine blades of one row of blades. Accordingly, a common oscillation characteristic value can be applied to all of the blades.

In view of the foregoing, applicant respectfully submits that the claims as amended are now in a condition of allowance.


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Conclusion

The commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees due in connection with this paper, or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-2179.

Respectfully submitted,

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